



Game Day Referee Protocol – Quick Read

No Referee?

If your assigned referee has not arrived:

1. Check with the opposing coach to confirm neither team has seen or spoken with the referee.
2. Wait **10 minutes** past the scheduled start time.
3. During that time, begin working with the opposing coach on a backup officiating plan.
4. If the referee still has not arrived, mutually agree on a coach, assistant coach, or willing parent to officiate.

One substitute official is preferred. If both coaches agree, one adult may officiate the first half and another the second half.

The substitute official's priorities should be simple:

Keep the players safe. Keep the game fair. Keep the game moving.

If the assigned referee arrives after play has started, they should take over at the next appropriate stoppage.

Respect the Volunteer Official

Anyone stepping in to officiate is volunteering so the kids can play and must be treated with the same respect expected for an assigned referee.

Referee abuse, intimidation, or harassment will not be tolerated.

Score Reporting — All Games

After every game, one coach should email the final score to:

Brian Lindvahl, Referee Operations Coordinator

refs@mudsockyouthsoccer.org

Please include the division, both team names, game date/time, and final score.

Please do not cancel a game or declare a forfeit simply because the assigned referee is missing. Make every reasonable effort to get the kids playing.

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